

From the Office of Secretary of State John Gale

402-471-2554

www.sos.ne.gov

For Release: October 10, 2012

Contact:

Laura Strimple 402-471-8408 laura.strimple@nebraska.gov

Nebraska teachers can still register for 'Student Vote' program

Nebraska teachers have one more week to register their classes for the Nebraska Student Vote program. The deadline to sign up is October 19.

At last count, 217 schools have signed on to take part, with nearly 34,000 students registered statewide.

Sponsored by Nebraska Secretary of State John Gale, the program offers an opportunity for middle and high school students to learn how elections are conducted, who the candidates are, how to register and finally, how to cast their ballots.

"Even though they may not be old enough to vote, this program offers students a chance to learn about the democratic process in a very real way," said Gale. "We want to cultivate lifelong voters. It's one thing to teach students about the history of the election process and its procedures. This format gives students hands-on experience as well."

Taking part in a mock election, students will cast their vote for President, U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives. Those votes are then counted and compared with the results from the general election on November 6.

"The process to register is easy, and we're eager to have more teachers take part. This is an excellent opportunity, especially with the highly contested races during this election," said Gale.

Gale went on to say that the program is designed to be flexible – affording teachers the opportunity to tailor it to their classrooms.

Teachers who wish to register can log onto the Secretary of State's <u>website</u>. The program is listed under 'Nebraska Student Vote'.